

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Nixon Backing Revolutionary Plan

By Drew Pearson

As reported in this column yesterday, Vice President Nixon said some things in his acceptance speech which would have made the Barry Goldwaterites faint from fright—if they had really understood their implication. What Nixon said might even have brought words of agreement from Nikita Khrushchev.



Pearson

For Nixon proposed "encouraging the revolution of peaceful peoples' aspirations in South America, Asia, and Africa" in the same spirit as the American Revolution.

This is strong medicine. It is definitely not the policy Mr. Eisenhower has followed in Latin America in the past. It is much nearer the crisis Fidel Castro has precipitated in Latin America. Because the ragtag, unpaid, unshaven Continental foot soldiers who knocked the crown of George III askew in 1776 were not too dissimilar from the sandal-clad, bearded foot soldiers of Fidel Castro who have been tweaking Uncle Sam's beard in Cuba.

Essentially the problem in Latin America and Africa and to a lesser extent in Asia is quite similar to that of the

American Revolution. And basically Nixon is right.

China Threatens

In Latin America there are vast hinterlands of undeveloped jungles, pampas and plateaus waiting to be pioneered, just as the interior of America waited to be pioneered in 1776.

For 200 years, while the North American continent was pioneered, these vast areas remained undeveloped for three reasons: (1) The tropical climate; (2) The backwardness of the natives; and (3) Lack of any impelling reason for their development.

Today modern science has provided ways of battling the tropics, and two powerful Communist nations—Russia and China—challenge the Free World for development of these backward areas. If we don't help do it, they will. China, especially, with a bulging population of 575 million, already plans to infiltrate South America, take control of local governments, relax immigration barriers, and bring several million Chinese into the Amazon.

For approximately seven years the Eisenhower Administration has followed a carefully calculated policy which has helped block Latin American development. It laid down the rule that no U. S. development loans could go to a country which barred foreign companies from exploring and

plotting local mineral rights. This was a policy imposed largely by our oil companies which wanted to drill in Latin America; but were barred in Argentina, Brazil, and elsewhere.

This ban on U. S. development money not only aroused antipathy for the United States, but played right into the hands of the Kremlin.

Policy Reversed

Last week, however, in fact on the same day Vice President Nixon delivered his acceptance speech in Chicago, Secretary of State Rusk in Washington initiated what amounted to a revolutionary new policy for the United States of aiding land reform even if it bordered on socialism. He advanced \$200 million for land development and land reform.

This change of policy showed that Nixon was not speaking out of turn. His speech was not mere rhetoric. It also showed that the Eisenhower Administration has decided to beat Fidel Castro to the punch by aiding moderate reform in friendly Latin American countries. Peru has been a good friend of the United States and its land reform will not dislocate relations with American sugar or copper interests.

More land reform loans will be advanced to other friendly Latin American countries despite the risk of criticism from

Goldwaterites that the United States is aiding Latin communism. But Fidel Castro's land reform, even though inefficient and unproductive, has been an amazingly successful battle cry against the United States in the rest of the Western Hemisphere.

Another point Nixon made is that "government can't do this job alone... this means that every one of you... who works or travels abroad must represent his country at its best in everything he does."

This is something which this column has been writing about for 10 years—the fact that even the everyday American tourist can be an ambassador of good will when he travels.

American corporations can be even more effective. And such firms as United Fruit which has built schools and hospitals in Central America, the Standard Oil Co. which has built schools in Venezuela, and Sears Roebuck which has brought low-priced goods to Mexico and other consumers, have been doing a good job for their country as well as for themselves.

However, it's going to take this, plus all the American revolutionary spirit which Vice President Nixon talked about, to compensate for the lethargy of the past seven years in our badly neglected Western Hemisphere.

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